



Catey Pre-School
COCKFIELD

THE PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP, 15 BUNNICKS LANE, COCKFIELD, SUFFOLK IP11 2JA

2024 Annual Report to the Parish Council

The preschool, like everyone in the Early Years Sector, have suffered badly from the lack of government funding. In 2022 the government's own survey found that the average Preschool's running costs were £7.48 per hour. Despite them paying an increase this financial year we are still only receiving £5.21 per hour from SCC for 3-4-year-olds, and £7.38 for 2-3-year-olds. Money is allocated by a weird formula to local authorities and rural Suffolk receives only half the amount allocated to urban regions. Over 5000 preschools are being forced to close every year.

Unfortunately, the government view preschools as child care facilities to enable parents to be in work rather as part of the early years education system and their lack of support for the sector is having a major negative impact on young children. However, we at CATEY still offer a high standard of early years education within the EYFS curriculum. We have an excellent team of five highly dedicated, patient & skilled staff consisting of our manager who has a degree in child care, a deputy and three level three bank staff who help the children to explore & develop their skills in a well-equipped, friendly, safe & secure environment.

This year the situation has improved slightly for CATEY because we have seen an increase in the number of two year old children attending. We currently have 29 children registered with us, but they don't all come to each session! The maximum we can accommodate at any session is 24. We have 19 two/ three year-olds and 10 three/ four year olds.

We are also fortunate to have a team of dedicated committee volunteers made up of parents & members of the community who fulfil their role enabling us to operate as a limited charity.

I would like to sincerely thank those individuals and local organisations who have offered financial support to the preschool over the past two difficult years, along with the regular supporters who belong to our 100 club, which is always open to new membership! This has enabled us to maintain a good level of equipment and learning aids for the benefit of the children's education.

Dick Bayes
Chairman

Tel: 01284 827274

www.catey-preschool.co.uk

cateypreschool@hotmail.com

CATEY Pre-School is committed to the welfare of it's children, staff & volunteers at all times.

Registered Charity Number: 1135211